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Docket No.: 205645US20

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

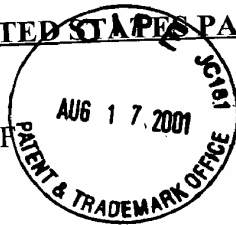
IN RE APPLICATION OF

Jian-Kang ZHU, et al.

SERIAL NO: 09/824,735

FILED: APRIL 4, 2001

FOR: PROTEINS AND DNA RELATED TO SALT TOLERANCE IN PLANTS



PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND STATEMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Office Communication mailed June 18, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as shown in the marked-up copy attached to read as follows.

Page 1, lines 8-9, please replace the paragraph with the following paragraph:

A¹
--This application claims benefit to U.S. provisional application No 60/194,649, filed on April 04, 2000, and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.--

Page 6, lines 1-6, please replace the paragraph with the following paragraph:

A²
--Fig. 2: SOS2 encodes a putative serine/threonine protein kinase. (A) Diagrammatic representation of SOS2 structure. (B) SOS2 cDNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:1) and the